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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

1. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] an aircraft engine test stand,
Plant No.2 in Upravlencheskiy, 22 kilometers from Kuybyshev.[redacted] Branch No.1,
Plant 88, on Gorodomiya Island (Seliger Lake), near Ostashkov.

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2. In Upravlencheskiy [redacted] a new
settlement made up of Finnish houses received by the Soviet Union
through reparations from Finland.

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Originally, in 1946, about 80 per cent of the houses in this
settlement were occupied by German families; since 1950 and 1951
few Germans were left, as many of them were repatriated to Germany
in those years.

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3. The Russians living in the settlement of Finnish houses were mostly skilled workers, earning on an average from 700 to 800 rubles a month, and also shop foremen and other technical personnel. Although the Germans and the Russians did not visit each other socially, [] many contacts with the Russian population, either neighbors or [] workmen in the plant. The neighbors frequently came into the houses of the Germans to buy things and especially to borrow money toward the end of their pay period.

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ATTITUDE OF SOVIET PEOPLE TOWARD THE STALINIST REGIME

4. [] the majority of the Soviet citizens [] were loyal to the Soviet regime, "even those who lived poorly." There were a few who complained vociferously about Soviet conditions, but they directed their complaints not against the Kremlin but against the local bosses (nachalniki). The preferred treatment received by these people in the shops (where they were allowed to break in at the head of the line) was a cause of general dissatisfaction, in any case. The older inhabitants were more inclined to be critical of the Soviet regime in general. They pointed out the deterioration of the living conditions since the time of Lenin and the NEP, the period they regarded as ideal. The younger people, on the other hand, were entirely convinced of the correctness of Soviet policy.

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MAIN SOURCES OF DISCONTENT

5. The strongest and most frequent complaints heard [] from Soviet workers were made against the extra work required of them (Pflichtarbeit) without compensation at times when they were supposedly free, i.e., evenings and weekends, and against the forced attendance at political lectures. However, as much as they complained about these things, no one would dare fail to show up for the "voluntary" work or lectures. The next most common complaints were about increases in work norms and the obligatory subscriptions to the state loans.
6. The Soviet workers indicated [] that they were disappointed with the annual price reductions, because they were followed by increases in work norms, because they were not substantial enough, and because usually soon after the reductions were announced, the cheaper categories of goods disappeared from the counters so that the customers were forced to buy more expensive grades. The scarcity of cheaper goods which they could afford to buy was a particularly sore point with the people.
7. There were other sources of dissatisfaction. Some of the Russians complained that the German families had more living space than they. Sudden arrests of neighbors or fellow workmen struck fear in the hearts of the people. [] the arrest of two Russians by the name of GOLOVIN and BIKINOV. Their wives seemed to spend all their

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time at the market and it was assumed that they were engaged in blackmarketing and speculation. The two families had been able to build their own homes and to furnish them well. The two men were careless in their talk and had been heard to make statements criticizing the regime. They both suddenly disappeared at the same time, and the people who knew about them thought they had been arrested.

ATTITUDE TOWARD STALIN

8. Most people did not speak of Stalin at all. The young people seemed to give him the loyalty they felt toward the regime in general. Older people blamed Stalin for the worsening of living conditions which had taken place since the period of Lenin's policies.
9. Many people were seen weeping at the news of Stalin's death but it is interesting to note that the authorities nevertheless considered it necessary to make attendance compulsory at the memorial service held at the time of his funeral -- names of the people attending were checked off a list.

they were very much afraid that things might "go amiss" without Stalin's guiding hand. They also feared dissension among his successors. these reaction were typical, that the people were seized by anxiety about the uncertainty of the future.

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THE KREMLIN "DOCTORS' PLOT"

10. The announcement on January 13, 1953, of the arrest of the "Kremlin Doctors" caused a very strong reaction among the Soviet people in Upravlencheskiy.

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11. When the charges against the doctors were repudiated in April 1953, the people did not know what to think. In general, the people usually believed what they were told about such things. Certainly the repudiation did not arouse any enthusiasm such as had accompanied the announcement of the charges themselves.

THE AMNESTY

12. There was a forced-labor camp in Upravlencheskiy itself

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no evidence

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nothing to indicate that any prisoners from that camp were released after the amnesty announcement on March 27, 1953. It is possible that some of the prisoners in the Upravlencheskiy camp were first transferred to another camp and then released.

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[redacted] no political prisoners were set free in the amnesty action.

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13. Although the amnesty announcement may have been initially greeted with favor, it soon became a source of dissatisfaction and complaint. There was such an increase of crimes of violence in the area that the people were afraid to go about on the streets at night. Robberies, attacks, stripings and murders assumed frightening proportions. This situation still existed when I left Upravlencheskiy at the end of June 1953.

REACTION TO THE LAST PRICE REDUCTION

14. The people were not satisfied with the price cuts of April 1953. They had come to expect the annual reductions and found no reason for excitement in the extent of the last cuts, which still left everything much too expensive and more costly than before the war. Also, they found that the cheaper products became harder to get, so that they were constrained to buy more expensive items, which were in good supply. Cheaper grades of sausage could be bought not more than once a week, when long queues would form, but ham was always available.

15. [redacted] the food situation in the Soviet Union had worsened since 1950 -- the people blamed it on the war in Korea. Fats and cereals had been in especially short supply since 1950. Butter was seldom to be had. Meat and milk were not available in the state stores at all, only at the market. On the other hand, the sugar supply had improved since 1949, so that it was always available.

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16. The food situation in Ostashkov was infinitely worse than in Upravlencheskiy. There was a shortage of practically everything in the state stores there, even of canned fish. The German employees on Gorodomlya Island, however, were given special supplies of such things as butter and meat. They received six kilos of butter a month, all at one time. The Germans were able to sell or exchange these goods with the Soviet population at a good profit.

THE JUNE 17 UPRISING IN EAST GERMANY

17. The first news of the June 17 uprising reached the people of Upravlencheskiy over the Soviet radio.

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[redacted] According to the Soviet version, the trouble was caused by [redacted] agents and provocateurs and involved German fascist remnants.

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] however, in spite of themselves, they were impressed by the story that it was German workers who were involved and that their main

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grievance was an increase in work norms. This was too common a grievance of their own not to sound at least plausible.

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEW REGIME

18. The people expressed no surprise that Malenkov assumed the top position after the death of Stalin, although they knew little about him. Four leaders were mentioned as possible successors: Malenkov, Molotov, Beria, and Kaganovich. [] no talk of rivalries and conflicts among the top leaders, but there were rumors of disagreements and differences between the Party and the military. []

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19. [] the Soviet people were very skeptical of the promises made by the new regime, because they had been so often disappointed and deceived in the past. Also, they did not think that the danger of war had become any less; they continued to fear that a new war was inevitable. On the other hand, [] the people reacted with pride to their government's recent announcements on the Soviet production of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

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ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET WORKERS TOWARD THE TRADE UNIONS

20. The workers did not have a very high opinion of the role played by Soviet trade unions in representing and defending the interests of the workers with respect to plant management. They regarded collective agreements as mere formalities, which did not acquire any force in the Soviet system and did not bring any benefits to the workers. Occasionally the GDR newspapers [] carried accounts of collective bargaining agreements concluded between trade unions and plant management in the GDR. []

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[] the system was in operation in practically all plants; however, the workers never specifically stated that it existed in the Upravlencheskiy plant. [] all workers were members of the trade union, that at the time they were hired, they automatically became members. []

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The workers, as a rule, regarded the trade union almost as if it did not exist. They knew at the outset that in most cases it was useless to have the union intercede for them with the management. Quite often [] workers say when told to refer their complaints to the trade union: "Eh, what's the use! They won't do anything about it anyhow."

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21. The situation [] in Upravlencheskiy was evidence of the impotence and worthlessness of the trade unions and plant committees in settling any disputes between employees and the plant management. Any worker [] who wanted to quit

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or make a complaint would first appeal to the department representative on the plant committee, a man named ZAGEYEV. Naturally, the Party was also involved in the case; the Party secretary was ZAGEYEV. In the final analysis, ZAGEYEV was the person who decided the issue. Collective agreements did not enter into the decision.

FUNCTIONS OF THE TRADE UNION

22. The fulfillment of the plan took precedence over all other considerations. It was the one all-important element -- powerful enough to negate the validity of the so-called agreements and the alleged power and influence of the trade union. Even in justifiable cases of complaint, the workers were told that the plan had priority. Theoretically, the trade union concerned itself with improving the working conditions in the plant and airing all grievances arising between the workers as a group and the plant management. In practice, however, its sphere of activity was quite limited. In minor cases of justifiable complaint, the union's intercession was quite helpful. For example, there was an incident involving a group of workers in the motor-testing department who complained to the union that the plant failed to furnish soap, as provided for in the work agreement. The trade union's intervention was effective in this case.

23. One of the tasks of the trade union was to secure and pay for accommodations in sanatoriums and health resorts for needy workers requiring rest cures. [redacted] three men [redacted] who were sent on three or four consecutive years to some sanatorium for one-month cures. These men were not sick nor were they in any worse financial straits than were the other workers at the plant. [redacted]

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[redacted] the best Party activists or even MVD agents in the plant were the only ones who were granted rest-cure trips paid for by the trade union.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ZAVKOM

24. The membership of the zavkom was composed of 25 to 30 men representing the 15 departments within the plant; one or two men were chosen from each department. [redacted] most of these committee members were sent to the plant to act as informers or lookouts. Their work on the production line was secondary; it really was a sinecure and a cover-up for their main function. Annual meetings for the purpose of electing committee members were held. However, these elections were always a farce, and it was a misnomer even to call them elections. They were pre-arranged affairs during which a nomination was made, seconded, and quickly voted on without any discussion.

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25. The department zavkom representative was a factotum charged with many and varied functions, the most important of which was the improvement and increase of plant production by

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organizing socialist work competition. The zavkom's efforts to increase plant production through the organization of socialist work competition was, generally speaking, rather fruitful as to quantity but relatively unsuccessful as to quality. However, a certain amount of permanent increase in output remained even after the completion of a period of socialist work competition. Other functions of the representative within the department were to develop "self-criticism"; issue wall newspapers; prepare graphs for bulletin boards; request suggestions for work improvement, efficiency, and economy; make arrangements for production-political meetings; prepare placards and banners for state holidays; and organize "voluntary" unpaid town-clean-up campaigns among the workers during their free time.

26. One of the relatively important functions of the zavkom was the issuance of letters of recommendation for individual workers. For example, a worker who requested sickness compensation or needed financial assistance had to file an application with the plant trade union committee and bring with him a letter of recommendation from his department zavkom representative. In most cases the trade union decision hinged on the report submitted by the zavkom representative with whom the trade union always checked on a worker's political attitude, his work at the factory, etc.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ZAVKOM AND THE MANAGEMENT

27. The goal of both the zavkom and the management was increased plant production. Occasionally, slight differences between the zavkom and the chief designer arose. They were usually settled in favor of the chief designer who, [redacted] appeared to be the sole authority in deciding issues at the plant. He maintained power to reverse and veto decisions made by the zavkom and the other organizations functioning at the plant. [redacted] the situation regarding delegation of managerial authority at this plant was quite different from that existing at other plants in the USSR; [redacted] this plant was engaged in research and not in production. At this plant, it was the chief designer, KUZNETSOV, and not the plant director, TITOV, who supervised the operation of the plant. It was KUZNETSOV who made official trips to Moscow to confer with the Ministry of Aircraft Industry, and whenever representatives of that ministry visited the Upravlencheskiy plant, they dealt only with him.
28. [redacted] an incident which occurred in the plant in autumn 1952 in which the chief designer was overruled. Several workers in the motor-testing section who were recently transferred from another factory complained to the doctor about the unhealthful working conditions and about the fact that they were not receiving the milk and vitamins which were supposed to be furnished by the factory. The Hygiene and Work Safety Committee, composed of the plant safety engineer and three or four doctors from the polyclinic in Kuybyshev, conducted an investigation and discovered that workers in that section were being poisoned by the mercury

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bestowed upon them by the "generous" state. However, the attitude of this group is quite understandable when one considers the fact that they, so to speak, are catered to by the regime. Furthermore, not having an opportunity to compare life in the Soviet Union with that in the West, they are convinced that the actions of the Soviet state are always logical, just, and correct.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE

32. [] the marked class differences in Soviet society, which were more extreme than anywhere [] women played such a great role in many professions, especially in the medical field. The younger generation of the Soviet Union was convinced and loyal in its support of the regime. [] the people in general were accustomed to and needed "proper guidance" by the state.
33. [] the annual retail price cut, usually occurring in March, was accompanied by a rise in output norms. As for the piece-rate workers, this rise in output norms meant a lowered rate per piece. In order for such a worker to earn the same wage that he was getting before the retail price cut, he would have to produce a proportionately greater number of articles.

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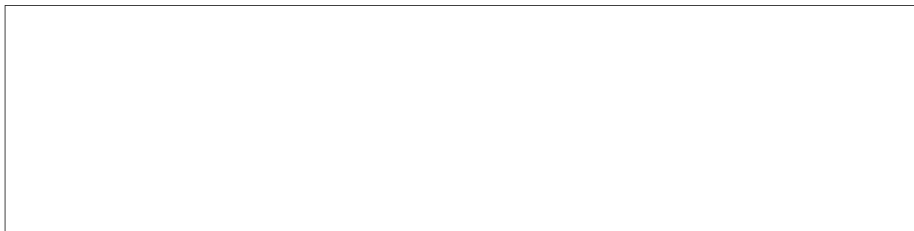
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INCIDENTS



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35. Among the anti-American placards was one showing on one side an attractive Soviet school with happy children about it and on the other a run-down shack (the American school) with a sign across the door, "school closed", and a ragged child standing sadly in front of it. This poster gave the German children an idea. They nailed up the front door of their school and attached a similar sign. The children attending the school were required to report to the local MGB office for investigation of the incident, but I heard of no punishment given.

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36. [] an incident tantamount to a purge occurred in Upravlencheskiy in the spring of 1953. About 50 or 60 men were involved in this clean-up campaign. All of these workers were discharged and forced to leave town. [] one man [] had to sell his little house. Among the rumored reasons for this move were that these men did not belong to the Party, that they failed to subscribe to the state loan, and that they were generally uncooperative. It was thought that the real reason for this drastic action was the fact that all of these Soviet workers had at one time associated with the Germans stationed in Upravlencheskiy.

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